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L.A. ECONOMIC CONFERENCE BEGINS IN QUITO 5 JAN

PA051459 Paris AFP in Spanish 2218 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Quito, 4 Jan (AFP) -- More than 30 countries have confirmed they will participate in the Latin American economic conference that will begin in Quito tomorrow, Thursday, 5 January, and end on Friday of next week, Ecuadoran presidential representative Eduardo Santos has announced. As its objective, this forum is searching for a formula to face the economic crisis. A "followup" board made up of personal representatives of the Argentine, Colombian, Costa Rican, Ecuadoran, Peruvian, and Dominican Republic presidents, in addition to SELA and ECLA delegates, will be installed Thursday at the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry.

According to the plan, the followup board will meet for 2 days, but its meetings will be preliminary and the possibility of extending them to Saturday has also been considered. From Monday through Wednesday of next week a top-level meeting will be held, attended by all of the region's countries, as well as representatives of regional and subregional organizations that have confirmed they will participate. A ministerial meeting, at which at least four heads of state will also be present, will be held next Thursday and Friday. On Friday, 13 January, the presidents, foreign ministers, and economy ministers will approve an "action plan" that will become a regional basis for facing the economic crisis.

Although ECLA includes countries from other than the Latin American and Caribbean regions, and all ambassadors accredited in Ecuador have been invited to the opening meeting, they will not be able to participate in the deliberations of the conference. Santos explained: "We have to reach an agreement ourselves."

Havana Notes Conference Opening

PA051955 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Luis Valencia has opened the first Latin American economic conference in Quito, with an exhortation to respond courageously to the challenge presented to our generation. Valencia stressed the need for our countries to remain united and to express their solidarity in order to confront the international economic crisis. Personal representatives of the presidents of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Ecuador, Peru, and the Dominican Republic, as well as representatives of both SELA and ECLA, are participating in the first phase of the meeting, which closes tomorrow, Friday.

A meeting of high-level experts from some 30 countries opens Monday to discuss the various points on the agenda, which include trade and integration, financing, energy cooperation, and services. The ministerial meeting will be inaugurated next Thursday by Ecuadoran President Osvaldo Hurtado. The meeting will be attended by the chiefs of state of Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic; the Peruvian vice president; and the Argentine deputy foreign minister, who will represent Argentine President Raul Alfonsin.

L.A. PARLIAMENT TO SUPPORT CONTADORA GROUP

PA052132 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The Political Commission of the Latin American Parliament will travel to Central America to help with the Contadora Group's efforts in seeking peace in this region.

Here are remarks made by Dr Marco Proano Maya: [Begin recording] The board of directors has named a commission to travel on a special mission to Central America. The commission includes members from Brazil, Mexico, and Ecuador. The basic objective of the mission is to firmly support the Contadora Group in its efforts to achieve its very important goal of peace in Central America, peace that includes sovereignty and is based on respect for human rights. To this effect, the Latin American Parliament will hold a joint meeting with the ministers of the Contadora Group on 8 January. Another objective of our mission is to support democratization processes in Central American countries. We believe that elections are the symbol of democracy, and democracy results from the mere holding of elections. [end recording]

ANDRES ZALDIVAR PROPOSES L.A. DEBTORS CLUB

PY051624 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 4 Jan 84

[By Manuela Robles]

[Text] Andres Zaldivar, president of the World Union of Christian Democrats, has proposed that all Latin American countries form a kind of debtors club in order to confront on an equal basis the conglomerate of creditors which, in view of the critical international economic situation, makes demands that threaten the normal development of Latin American nations.

The proposal is included in a statement drafted for the World Union of Christian Democrats by lawyers Hernan Bosselin and Ramon Briones. The statement is entitled "Political and Economic Proposals Aimed at Solving the Latin American Foreign Debt Problem." This 47-page report makes an economic, moral, and legal evaluation of the bankruptcy of Latin American nations which are in a weak negotiating position when confronting the united international banking sector. This sector is sheltered by IMF-imposed measures, which are in reality restrictions on the domestic economies of Latin American countries, and further lessen their payment possibilities.

The statement adds that no international organization by itself will be able to overcome all the obstacles that must be confronted in this regard. Therefore, it invites other international organizations to express their solidarity in this regard and to seek solutions to the complex problem of the Latin American foreign debt situation.

It also notes that when some debtor countries realized that they were truly unable to pay their debts, they faced up to the situation openly stating their position, while others like Chile, tried to conceal their situation by refinancing the payment of annual interest but postponing the installment of their debts. But, the statement warns, the renegotiation of foreign debts is even more dangerous.

Andres Zaldivar reported today during a press conference that this statement has been submitted to all interested sectors and to Latin American governments. He added that the decision to form a debtors club to confront the foreign banking sector is a political decision that each government must make. Zaldivar also noted that the democratization of debtor countries will greatly help to form this club of debtors, and thus successfully end the renegotiation of the Latin American foreign debt.

ALFONSIN ORDERS INQUIRY INTO OLD REGIME ACTIONS

PY051736 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today revealed that President Raul Alfonsin has ordered an investigation of any actions taken by officials of the de facto government which may have hurt the state or society. Lopez also said that the chief of state is studying all economic and social projects which require urgent implementation.

BIGNONE ORDERED TO APPEAR IN KIDNAPPING CASE

PY060115 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Jan 84

[Text] Former President Reynaldo Bignone has been summoned to appear before Federal Judge Luis Cordoba next Monday in connection with the abduction of National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI) scientist Alfredo Giorgi, lawyer Marcelo Parilli reported yesterday. At the same time Judge Cordoba reportedly lifted all travel restrictions on three other generals involved in the case and said there would be no arrests for the time being due to "incomplete evidence."

Bignone, who failed to respond to the first summons last week on the plea that his wife was ill, will reportedly be arrested if he does not show up this time. The three generals now free to leave the country are former 1st Army Corps commander Gillermo Suarez Mason, Santiago Riveros (both now retired), and Frederico Minicucci. But 17 other senior officers will still be denied authorization to travel. Andres Marutian, the lawyer of the three men, confirmed that Bignone had been summoned for Monday.

DEPUTIES PASS AMENDMENT TO MILITARY JUSTICE CODE

Chamber Occupied Before Vote

PY052130 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2110 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Jan (NA) -- Some 300 persons linked to various human rights organizations have barged into the Congress building, breaking through the police cordon which tried to stop them. The initiative was taken by a group of Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who broke the cordon formed by some 12 policemen posted at the Congress building. The large group has occupied the Chamber of Deputies, the voting of the military code amendment is expected to be held in approximately 2 hours.

Vote on Bill Reported

PY052350 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2320 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Jan (NA) -- The Chamber of Deputies this afternoon approved the draft bill amending the Military Code of Justice, providing for abuses carried out during acts of repression to be tried in military courts with the right of appeal to civilian courts. The bill was approved shortly after 1900 with the votes of the majority of Radical deputies and with the support of Deputy Juan Manny of the Democratic Centrist Union.

Mothers Protest Amendment

PY060155 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0029 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Jan (DYN) -- At the end of a session of the Chamber of Deputies, during which a bill proposing an amendment to the Military Code of Justice was approved, a large delegation of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo walked along the corridors of the Congress Building rejecting the bill and accusing the Radical legislators of being traitors.

A group of approximately 50 women walked inside the Congress Building carrying a sign which read "They Took Them Alive and We Want Them Back Alive" and voicing their rejection of the bill. The situation grew tenser when the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo identified Cesar Jaroslavsky, president of the Radical bloc. The women shouted "traitor" at him, and they demanded justice and the return of their sons alive. Amidst a general disorder, some mothers took the white handkerchiefs that identify them and beat them against the Radical deputy.

The women struggled to approach the legislator as he walked along a corridor on the first floor. A youth who was accompanying the mothers severely reprimanded Jaroslavsky. The youth, who was visibly shaken, only shouted "traitor, traitor" at the legislator as he tried to approach one of the staircases leading out of the building. At one moment, the two came face to face, causing the legislator to react forcefully and to try to stop the youth, who continued to shout "traitor" at him. Shut up because one of my brothers is missing also, Jaroslavsky shouted at the boy. This ended the quarrel between them. Jaroslavsky's words also ended the demonstration by the Mothers, who left the Congress Building through the gate along Rivadavia Street carrying their signs.

CAPUTO ON FALKLANDS, CONTACTS WITH BRITAIN

PY052230 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1702 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Jan (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today stated that the advent of the constitutional government has improved the international prospects for the Malvinas issue because the government is consistent in its principles and its actions. "This naturally changes Argentina's foreign image because now, as opposed to the past, our assertions are credible," he said.

In statements to the press at the end of the greetings to President Raul Alfonsin, given by the diplomatic corps accredited to Argentina, the foreign minister emphasized that Argentina has reiterated on many occasions its willingness to resolve its disputes peacefully through diplomatic channels. This circumstance has caused the world to have confidence in Argentina because the world can see that very complex situations such as our dispute with Great Britain can be resolved, the minister said.

He remarked that the communique issued 3 days ago on the occasion of the 151th anniversary of the Malvinas occupation was not addressed to the British Government. He said that the response given by the British Government was not consistent because "the Foreign Office was warmer than the British prime minister. It was interesting to see the headlines published by the three most important newspapers of London, which understood the importance of the Argentine Government's gesture," Caputo said.

The foreign minister was later asked about a report by a foreign news agency quoting the British prime minister as stating that her country would be willing to lift the exclusion zone if Argentina formally declared the cessation of hostilities. Caputo said that Argentina cannot answer anything unless it is formally requested by the British Government, adding that the Argentine Government cannot answer other governments based on press reports. He said that Argentina needs a specific and official request to establish its position.

The foreign minister was also asked about reports from Europe indicating that Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi would convey the British Government's view on the Malvinas issue to the Argentine Government and that Craxi's mediation had been welcomed in Argentina. Foreign Minister Caputo told the journalist, "I have read the newspapers as you have, but the Argentine Government has said absolutely nothing. However, we do welcome the good offices of all the peoples of the world who seek peace along with us."

Further on, Caputo said that it would be dangerous to say that only 10 percent of the British Government is against Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and that the rest of the Government and the people are in favor of it. He said that the Argentine Government has no means of determining what percentage of the British public favors or opposes Argentina's sovereignty. For this reason, I cannot give you a responsible opinion in this regard, he said.

TROCCOLI CONTACTED; SYNAGOGUE INCIDENT DECRIED

PY060120 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Jan 84 p 11

[Text] The Jewish-Argentine Association (DAIA) sent a telegram to Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli calling for an "immediate" investigation into an incident earlier this week, in which a Sephardic synagogue in the city of Rosario was doused with liquid fuel and set on fire by vandals. DAIA's telegram said the fire "shows that anti-Jewish hatred is still being used by groups intent on disturbing the rules of democratic coexistence."

COMMUNISTS CHARGE RADIO STATION DISCRIMINATED

PY060000 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2021 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Jan (DYN) -- The Communist Party's [PC] Central Committee today denounced the private metropolitan radio station "Radio Rivadavia," which, according to the party, "constantly boasts about its struggle for freedom of the press," but refused to broadcast a paid advertisement announcing a party to celebrate the PC's 66th anniversary in Plaza Italia tomorrow.

In its communique, the PC pointed out that "we deem it very serious if discriminatory criteria are used in any circumstances in access to the information media, but it is even more serious in the phase that the country is currently experiencing because this attitude by no means contributes to the development of a true democracy."

When Radio Rivadavia authorities were consulted about the PC's charges, they said that they were untrue and explained that they had not agreed to broadcast the advertisement since the time chosen for it had already been sold.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON LA MONEDA SECURITY MEASURES

Jarpa Comments

PY060145 Paris AFP in Spanish 2353 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 5 Jan (AFP) -- The Chilean Military Government today said that it has not received any threat against La Moneda Presidential Palace, although on Wednesday its main gate was partially closed as a preventive measure. Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa stated that no specific threat has been made, but it can be assumed that, in order to cause trouble, terrorists might resort to methods used in other countries, such as truck-bombs driven toward a given building or target.

He reiterated that La Moneda's main gate facing Constitution Plaza has been partially closed in order to install a modern security system to prevent a surprise attack like the ones that took place in Beirut, where suicide commandos demolished several barracks and the building of the U.S. Embassy.

Over the last 20 days, explosions have blown up high tension pylons, causing blackouts in various cities in the central and southern regions, and have damaged railroad tracks, bridges, and police barracks. At the same time, there were several armed attacks on banks. In addition, two policemen were shot 10 days ago, raising to six the number of policemen who have been killed in the last 3 months.

Havana on Increased Security

FL051841 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1408 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The Chilean military government has implemented unprecedented security measures, particularly in regard to any access to the leadership. Government spokesmen have said there have been no threats to justify these measures, but added that they were implemented in view of the international situation. The White House has used a similar claim.

Opposition members, however, commented that the country's military authorities seem to be worried about the wave of attacks on the regime which have been disturbing the nation's forced tranquillity in the past few weeks. The most recent attack occurred yesterday when dynamite was placed on an electric post in San Miguel, south of Santiago, leaving the town without electricity.

JARPA RELEASES LIST OF CNI PRISON LOCATIONS

PY052055 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpt] On disclosing a list of the detention centers maintained by the security services, Interior Minister Sergio Onofre Jarpa said that he believed it to be necessary to disclose the location of the CNI prisons.

The minister was asked about the security measures adopted yesterday at La Moneda Palace, where the gate leading to La Moneda Street remained half open. The minister said that security measures would be studied to prevent terrorist attacks against Government House.

COMMITTEE DEMANDS CNI CHIEF ANSWER CHARGES

PY052110 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1615 GMT 5 Jan 84

[By Carmen Castro]

[Text] The Committee for the Dissolution of the CNI [National Intelligence Center] has issued a public letter reasserting the demand made to CNI Director Humberto Gordon on 12 December.

On that date, the committee accused the secret political police of resorting to illegal methods which seriously violated human rights, and it demanded that General Gordon answer charges on human rights violations.

This time, Jaime (Ales), a lawyer who is a member of the committee, disseminated a public letter reiterating the demand. (Ales) said that he had been very clear because the committee, which is organized to defend human rights, has evidence that the secret police headed by Gordon violate the law by using illegal methods to repress political activities.

Jaime (Ales) remarked that unidentified CNI agents carry out torture in secret prisons, adding that honorable Army officers would not have ignored such a demand. The committee noted the need for Gordon to answer its demand.

The letter says: Are you ready to discuss the illegal CNI methods in public with us and with other witnesses? The letter adds: Will General Gordon disclose the names of the CNI agents who carry out torture and will he confront them in public along with their victims?

The letter concludes by noting the need to disclose the location of the secret prisons. It adds that if the CNI intends to justify its actions against terrorism, Gordon should disclose the results of the investigations of the armed groups that attacked demonstrators on 2 December 1982 and on 1 May 1983 in the Artesanos Square.

PRODEN CHIEF SCORES PINOCHET ON ECONOMIC POLICY

PY051239 Paris AFP in Spanish 0028 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Santiago, 4 Jan (AFP) -- The opposition group PRODEN [National Development Project] today accused President Augusto Pinochet of having provoked an economic disaster unprecedented in the entire democratic history of Chile.

PRODEN President Jorge Lavandero said that the economic predictions for 1984 which Pinochet made in his year-end message were irresponsible and that he concealed irrefutable realities in the country.

The drop in the supply of goods, the drop in imports with no previous increase in national production, the loss of the purchasing power of salaries by 14.2 percent, and a real unemployment rate of 32 percent were some of the facts cited by Lavandero.

The gross national product per capita in Chile today is equal to that of 1963. The country has thus taken a 20-year step backwards, he added. Chile used to hold the third or fourth place in Latin America. Today we only manage to stay ahead of Haiti, Lavandero stated.

Our foreign debt of $21 billion is one of the gloomiest episodes in our history. The agricultural sector has been so badly damaged that the raw materials for two of every three loaves of bread consumed must be imported, Lavandero added.

PRODEN, formed in 1982 by rightist, centrist, and leftist personalities, has repeatedly demanded the resignation of military authorities. Other political groups of the opposition have done the same. The only peaceful alternative to this social time bomb, whose fuse has been lighted, is the resignation of President Pinochet, because the faster he goes, the sooner we will have peace, Lavandero concluded.

Havana Notes Charges

FL051905 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1516 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Eduardo Lavandero, president of the National Development Project of Chile, which opposes the military regime, has accused Pinochet of destroying the country politically, socially, economically, and morally.

In remarks to the press, Lavandero predicted that 1984 will be a year of economic difficulties more serious than those endured by Chile so far. Citing a study made by the National Development Project of Chile, the opposition leader said that the country's inflation is currently restrained by unemployment and a drop in workers' purchasing power.

This is the result of the economic model imposed by force, Lavandero noted, adding: Chile went back 20 years because the per capita gross national product dropped by 9 percent and what we have today is the same as what we had in 1963.

NEW 'SOCIALIST FRONT' EMPHASIZES INDEPENDENCE

PY051855 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0355 GMT 5 Jan 84

[By Senen Conejeros]

[Text] Santiago, 4 Jan (EFE) -- The leaders of the Socialist Front [Frente Socialista -- FS] which appeared today, have defined their movement as representative of "historic socialism, jealous of its autonomy and independence." However, its secretary general, Juan Carlos Moraga, did not discard an understanding with other socialist sectors.

The Chilean socialist sector is so far divided in two large factions: the socialist bloc born from the so-called "convergence," which includes Christian humanistic socialists and even Marxists; and the Socialist Party of former Foreign Minister Clodomiro Almeyda of clear Marxist-Leninist tendency.

The socialist bloc aligned itself with the multiparty Democratic Alliance grouping headed by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], with the participation of Social Democrats, Republican Rightists, and Radicals.

The Almeyda group, labeled by Moraga as "dogmatic Marxists who continue to believe in the dictatorship of the proletariat," are members of the Democratic and Popular Movement (MDP), where the Communist Party has clear authority.

Moraga, pointing out the differences between the FS and the other two factions, said that "we are an alternative to the non-Christian Democratic and Communist sectors because socialism should be an alternative in its own right without subordinating itself to the PDC or the Communist Party.

He defined his group as "democratic socialists, strictly respecting human rights, pluralism, and democracy, principles which separate us from Stalinists."

The FS also claims to have the right and the authority to become a socialist alternative after having experienced "the pain and suffering which can inspire respect in people who have taken advantage of socialism and its divisions, and who have sold socialist principles for presumed possibilities of power."

Regarding immediate political action, Moraga supports the Chileans' rights "to do what they can," explaining that the times when political leaders orderd and regulated how the people should obtain their liberation are over. According to the FS, "The political leadership cannot determine the people's actions at the grass-root level."

The FS Executive Board includes, in addition to Moraga, Gilberto Gatica, member of the National Union Coordinating Board; Gladys Olguin, in charge of the human rights section; and Manuel Pizarro, under secretary general.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS APPOINTED, ACCEPTED -- Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle reported yesterday that Pedro Daza Valenzuela has been appointed the new Chilean ambassador to the United Nations, replacing Manuel Trucco. Daza Valenzuela, who was ambassador to the OAS, will be replaced by former Justice and Education Minister Monica Madariaga on 1 March 1984. The foreign minister also reported that the Argentine Government has agreed to the appointment of Arturo Fontaine Aldunate as Chilean ambassador to Argentina, replacing Sergio Onofre Jarpa. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 31 Dec 83 p A 1 PY]

NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR'S CREDENTIALS -- Patrick S.J. Rutgers, the new ambassador of the Netherlands to Chile, presented his credentials to President Augusto Pinochet yesterday. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Dec 83 p C 2 PY]

DAILY CLOSES -- Concepcion -- Ricardo Hepp, director of the daily CRONICA, has reported that the El Sur Concepcion publishing house decided today to close the daily due to economic difficulties. [Summary] [Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p 7 PY]

IMPORT-EXPORT FIGURES -- The Central Bank has reported that by 30 December, international reserves slightly surpassed $2 billion. This means that $500 million worth of international reserves were spent in 1983. This is $100 million less than the figure established by the IMF, which is $600 million. Regarding the commercial balance, the Central Bank reports that Chile's exports totaled $3.672 billion while imports totaled $2.671 billion. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Jan 84 PY]

GOVERNMENT FIRM ON U.S. EXTRADITION REQUESTS

PA041753 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota -- The Colombian Government has announced that it will not alter a decision to deny the extradition of two Colombian citizens to the United States, at the same time reiterating that Colombia is a sovereign state.

In response to a note sent by U.S. Ambassador Lewis Tambs to the Colombian Foreign Ministry, in which the U.S. Government expressed its concern over Colombia's decision to deny the extradiction of Ejiro de Jesus Mejia Ronero and Lucas Gomez Manrique, who are sought by U.S. authorities on charges of drug trafficking, Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla stressed that Colombia is a sovereign state and that its government will not modify decisions that it has already made. The minister noted that the decisions were analyzed in depth based on all Colombian and international laws and on studied legal opinions.

Concerning the possible extradition of Carlos Lehder, also being sought by U.S. authorities on drug charges, Minister Lara Bonilla said that the government studies each case independently, and added that President Betancur should be ready to rule on the matter soon.

OFFICIALS VIEW SUBVERSIVE THREAT, DIALOGUE

Defense Minister Cited

PA052137 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian National Defense Minister General Fernando Landazabal Reyes today demanded a democracy stronger than a dictatorship to prevent anarchy in the country, and warned that the Armed Forces will never allow communism to take over through violence.

Lanadazabal Reyes made this statement on the television program "The Witness Stand" [El Banquillo] broadcast today. He also said El Salvador is about to enter the communist orbit, like Cuba and Nicaragua.

After reiterating that the Armed Forces would oppose a violent communist takeover, the minister said they would support a leftist regime if it were duly elected.

He defended the counterinsurgency activities being carried out by the Army and reiterated that they will make no concessions to the 16,670 guerrillas operating in the country. He further asserted that the Armed Forces are capable of controlling the subversives.

The Colombian Armed Forces will grant no respite or cease-fire to those who insist on taking over through violence, Lanadazabal Reyes said. He also reported that his ministry is studying the possibility of purchasing special equipment to fight the guerrillas.

Regarding the contacts that the Peace Commission is establishing with the various guerrilla groups, the defense minister said this is a situation in which a cease-fire (?would be admissible).

The Peace Commission is (?carrying out) its contacts with the subversives; this has been authorized, and the commission's efforts are fine. The problem is that many of these [word indistinct] are not announced, and then [words indistinct] with them, he pointed out.

Landazabal Reyes then said that some sectors are (?critical of) the Armed Forces' efforts in the struggle against subversion. He said the Armed Forces will allow no slander against their prestige by organizations that supposedly defend human rights. He added that the attorney general said recently that his office will be wherever there is a soldier, to watch him. He pointed out that the attorney general's work honors the Armed Forces, because it is legal.

He warned that the Colombian people have to become accustomed to listening to the generals, because they know what they are talking about and what they are defending. He also said some guerrilla groups have not sought amnesty under the law approved by Belisario Betancur's government in November 1982 because they are involved in cocaine trafficking.

Commission President Responds

PA060402 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Bogota -- Tacitly rejecting Defense Minister Fernando Landazabal's statements on the dialogue being held between the Peace Commission and rebel groups, commission President John Agudelo Rios has said that the dialogue will continue. The commission, comprised of 40 spokesmen of political parties, the church, unions, laborers, and students, is currently holding talks with the Communist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC.

Regarding General Landazabal's statements, Agudelo said that declarations made by officials other than President Belisario Betancur represent personal viewpoints only, not instructions to be obeyed.

In addition, Peace Commission President Agudelo said that the democratic opening begun by President Betancur will not be stopped. Asked about the declarations by Landazabal [words indistinct] the former minister said that the dialogue with rebel groups will continue, He told Cadena Radial Super:

[Begin recording] As Peace Commission president, I would like to point out the following: 1) The peace Commission will continue holding a dialogue with all rebel groups, as authorized by the law that created the commission. 2) As a group [words indistinct] the commission has been working in perfect harmony to that end. 3) Because of this, the opinions of other high-ranking government officials regarding the issue of peace merely represent personal viewpoints available to this commission, not instructions to be obeyed. [end recording]

Agudelo spoke with President Betancur for 2 hours at the Narino Palace. The topics of discussion were not disclosed.

MOPOCO MEMBER RETURNS, CRITICIZES REGIME

PY051617 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 14

[Text] "The Colorado Popular Movement [MOPOCO] has expressed its desire to hold talks, and we hope that the government will do the same, because only thus will we be able to weed out unjust and arbitrary actions from our nation." This statement was made yesterday by Emilio Reynal, member of the MOPOCO government junta, on returning to the country. He was welcomed at the airport by MOPOCO leaders and by several relatives.

Reynal added: "We are returning after 26 years in exile, and again we find journalists and students under arrest; the same injustices continue under the same conditions. For these very reasons we left the country. As an expert on the Colorado Party, I am able to say that our party cannot be based on 30 years of a state of seige, and on repressive laws and measures. This is diametrically opposed to the party's principles," Reynal added.

Reynal also said: "It is a shame to have to live as this point in our life with our rights violated, with unrecognized freedoms; I am discussing all these issues, and I am making them known in my country because I am a Paraguayan citizen and a Colorado Party member with a spotless record."

MOPOCO TERMED 'IRRELEVANT SPLINTER FACTION'

PY052355 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Just How They Are and What They Are"]

[Excerpt] It is not our purpose to stir up animosity. However, becuase we are in the service of truth, we cannot fail to communicate, to report, and to give our opinions, availing ourselves of a right to which we are entitled, just as anyone else is. We would like to give Colorado Party members and the national public a clear picture of MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] as a faction within the limited group that was expelled from the Colorado Party in the wake of the subversive outburst of 1959, a group that has been in permanent turmoil.

In the first place, and it is worth making a point of it, MOPOCO is nothing but an irrelevant splinter faction of that well-known group; it has nothing to do with others who can be regarded as figures of more significance and who have formed an alleged "Colorado Party government junta-in-exile." This "junta" is anything but that, because its members are scattered in Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, and the United States; rather than paying this kind of "visit," which has no clear objective except the sterile sensationalism of "independent" propaganda, the members of this "junta" are dedicated to more lucrative activities.

Internal divisions within the above group "have depopulated the desert" -- that is, aside from being just a handful of people, engulfed in conflict and eroded as they are, they now seem to be even fewer as they are diluted in factions of factions.

As usual, we will offer evidence, and this evidence cannot be denied because it originates with these people themselves.

We have at hand a publication of this "junta," in which serious charges are leveled against MOPOCO, the same MOPOCO that has sought shelter in the illegal opposition, close to the members of the Authentic Radical Liberal, the Febrerista, and the Christian Democratic Parties. MOPOCO members have preferred to do this rather than to seek reconciliation with former fellow party members and readmission into the Colorado Party which, like all parties, have its own disciplinary rules and its appropriate channels for absolving, granting pardon, or lifting sanctions.

But that is not the point now; instead of seeking reconciliation, they have publicly shown to the entire country that they are pursuing "party unity," despite the fact that unity has prevailed within our party since 27 October 1959, in their absence, as is proven by the "Reminder" dedicated to 22 persons published in the front page of our 4 January issue.

What we want now is to point to the pure and simple fact that, beyond all doubt, this MOPOCO, which supports collusion and "populist fronts," has come to dive into the anti-Colorado Party plot that is being concocted at the "House of the People," a house where the people do not go. This plot has been given the name of "national accord," although it is neither an accord nor is it national.

BRIEFS

MILITARY OFFICER PROMOTED -- The Executive Branch has approved a decree promoting Enrique Duarte Alder to the rank of major general. [Summary] [Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 2 Jan 84 p 9 PY]

NEW EMERGENCY ZONE COMMANDER INSTALLED

PY050205 Paris AFP in Spanish 2346 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Lima, 4 Jan (AFP) -- General Adrian Huaman Centeno today took over as commander of the 2d Infantry Division and as head of the Political-Military Command of the zone that has been declared in a state of emergency in view of the terrorist actions undertaken by the Shining Path group.

Gen Huaman replaces General Clemente Noel Moral, who had conducted the antisubversive war since the government asked the Armed Forces to intervene late in 1982.

Huaman graduated from the school of Army officers in 1953. He was promoted to the rank of general in January 1983. He was the commander of the armored division, headquartered in Lima.

Born in Apurimac Department, close to the emergency area, Gen Huaman speaks Quechua, the predominant language in rural areas.

The emergency zone encompasses 11 provinces in Ayacucho, Huancavelica, and Apurimac Departments, in the southeastern Andean region. This zone has been the center of the guerrilla actions launched by the Shining Path, a Maoist organization that has been led by Abimael Guzman since 1980.

HAVANA ON CONTINUED STRIKES, LABOR PROBLEMS

PA051620 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] While the PETROPERU [State Petroleum Agency] workers' strike is continuing, it has been announced in Lima that 11 of the 280 miners of the (Cata-Acari) deposit who for the last 8 days have been staging a hunger strike in the Peruvian capital were transferred to various hospitals due to their worsening health.

Strikes and other forceful measures by various Peruvian labor sectors have continued to press for the fulfillment of collective labor contracts, the payment of back wages, and other demands.

BRIEFS

ARMY PROMOTIONS APPROVED -- Last night, the Senate approved promotions proposed by the Army staff. The following brigadier generals have been promoted to major generals: Sinesio Jarama Davila, Hector Cornejo Villanueva, Luis Arenas Munoz, Hiram Razier Bambergen Miranda, and Jorge Flores Torres. The following colonels have been promoted to brigadier generals: Julio Carbajal D'Angelo, Enrique Odar Temoche, Arturo Figueroa Lopez Pardo, Luis Vargas Flores, Carlos Balcazar Canales, Jose Reinoso Cuestas, Dionisio Merino Collantes, Federico Jesus Bouroncle Yepez, Pedro Edilberto Villanueva Valdivia, Guillermo Jimenez Rossell, Clifford Casas Elias, Manuel Lazarte Villalobos, Rodolfo Carrera Roman, Adolfo Alvarado Fournier, Juvenal Franco Llaury, Clemente Acevedo Guerrero, Marciano Rengifo Ruiz, Carlos Alberto Cruz Huarcaya, Ciro Medina Delgado, Alberto Augusto Hidalgo, Juan Alberto Fernandez Davila Velez, Rodrigo Benavides Uriba, Jose Augusto del Solar Cespedes, Carlos Otto Ribbeck Menendez, Jesus Abraham Talavera Delgado, Rengifo Ruiz Marciano, and Juan Mariano Barandiaran Pagador. [Summary] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 p 2 PY]

DE LA MADRID DELIVERS NEW YEAR MESSAGE TO NATION

FL051441 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Jan 84

[New Year's message read by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid over a radio and television network at 0230 GMT on 5 January 1984]

[Text] Compatriots: Good evening. We begin a new year, and I want to send to each and every one of you my friendly and affectionate greeting.

I also want to urge you to greet 1984 with hope, trust, and a disposition for hard work.

The difficult year 1983 proved to Mexicans and the world that the vigor and strength of our nation were greater than the adversities we faced. I thank the great Mexican people for supporting the government tasks.

The progress made -- made by all -- is visible. We have preserved democratic institutions and freedoms. Social peace has been consolidated. We ended the economic crisis. We have strengthened the institutions of the Republic within a de jure system.

Mexicans have the foundation to close 1983 with a positive balance, with figures in the black, and, encouraged by this, we can begin our tasks for 1984 with reasonable optimism and renewed trust in ourselves to persevere in this effort.

However, we must admit that the crisis has continued to affect us daily. Its most worrisome sign is inflation, the overall and constant increase in prices.

In 1983 we were able to reduce the inflation rate by one-fifth, and, most important, we were able to prevent it from increasing indefinitely, as has occurred in other countries with a similar economic structure. The 1983 inflation rate was nearly 80 percent as opposed to 100 percent in 1982. Our goal now is to reduce it to half in order to end our daily anguish -- the increase in prices. But this calls for perseverance. What we have accomplished thus far is far from sufficient. Let's not lower our guard. Let's remain determined and firm.

We will continue to improve our public finances by decreasing the growth of the internal and external public debts and zealously ensuring the efficient and honest handling of public expenditures within the government, as well as within states agencies.

We will continue to promote responsibility and moderation in economic fields: prices. salaries, and revenue. The year 1984 cannot be a period of expansion. We must be cautious in order to prevent intolerable relapses. Risks still exist. We must, at the same time, reduce inflation and reactivate production.

Thanks to various government actions, and particularly to the mature attitude of workers and businessmen, we avoided, serious harm to production and employment in 1983. We must continue to make efforts to protect the sources of work as well as economic activity and jobs. Special care will be taken in order to prevent an increase in unemployment.

Our external economic relations have also improved. We are again in control of our exchange rate. Imports and expenditures of Mexicans abroad have decreased substantially while exports have increased. We have contracted fewer debts and have reorganized a large part of our foreign debt, thus avoiding the suspension of our financial, commercial, and economic relations abroad. This would have resulted in very serious consequences for our economy. Our international prestige has been restored to a great extent. I must repeat, this is the work of all of us. The strength we project abroad is a result of our internal strength. Therefore, Mexico is in better condition than most developing countries at the end of a year that was unusually difficult, economically and socially, particularly for Latin American countries.

Despite the crisis, we have advanced in other important aspects of our country's life. Democratization is being further consolidated, with a great balance in the relations between the executive branch and the legislative and judicial branches, the strengthening of the state governments, and the consolidation of municipal reform. Full respect for individual liberties and social rights have taken a similar turn. There is freedom of expression, individual as well as collective. We not only welcome but guarantee the right to criticize. We tell the truth, but if we are wrong, we are willing to rectify. We have also made progress in democratic planning and the people's participation in government. The year 1984 must follow the same trend: Democracy and freedom are unavoidable goals of all Mexicans.

It has been difficult to make advances in the construction of an egalitarian society. The economic crisis has posed genuine problems related to subsistence, and if they are not solved, it will be impossible to ensure social justice. Despite that, essential public services are being maintained and expanded. These include education, health care, social security, the supply of basic consumer goods, employment in depressed rural and urban areas, and salary adjustments in accordance with the situation of the country and of the companies. The policy and programs of social development will continue to receive priority attention from the government. For that purpose, we have proposed new legislation to promote housing and the right to health care, and to strengthen social security systems. Also, the National Food Program is underway.

We have undertaken the tasks of moral renovation with seriousness and energy. Emphasis has been placed on the establishment of standards and systems that best assure the honest and efficient management of public functions and that efficiently avoid the diversion of resources and any form of corruption. We prefer to prevent rather than to sanction. Therefore, only cases with sufficient evidence have been prosecuted, whether against past or present officials.

Based on wide-ranging consultations with the people, we proceeded to reform the laws dealing with procuration and the administration of justice, for which we have also provided a larger appropriation of material resources. We have continued the modernization and professionalization of the police forces. The safety of our citizens concerns us, and we know that a better and more efficient system is needed. We will not cease in our efforts. But also, on the subject of the administration of justice, agrarian legislation has been reformed to simplify and make more expedient the procedures that the compesinos must go through. We have also made labor laws more flexible throughout the country.

Decentralization of national activity has also advanced. We have corresponding programs underway in the fields of education and health care. The constitutional reform under Article 115 strengthens the municipality, and when the laws that the states enact are introduced, the self-management capability of the local communities will be strengthened. We have also promoted programs for regional development.

The government has been run with seriousness, responsibility, and organization. We are trying to be a government worthy of Mexico. Democratic planning has generated clear ideas and more efficient, more operative mechanisms. We know what we want and how to achieve it. We pointed it out in the 1983-88 National Development Plan.

We are continuing to build the country, although at a moderate rate. Mexicans are continuing to build schools, clinics, and hospitals. We are making advances in the communications and transport infrastructure -- highways, ports, airports, telephones, railroads, and mass urban transportation -- and there are plans to modernize the mail and telegraph services. We are building dams and irrigation projects, and we are expanding the potable water and drainage services. We are continuing to invest in petroleum and electricity, and our shipyards are making advances in the manufacture and repair of ships. I reiterate that it is true that public investment is not growing at a high rate, given financial limitations, but it continues to more forward. The country has not been paralyzed.

I state that all successes were brought about by all of you. The work was accomplished because of everyone's efforts: farm workers, who helped by good rainfall and various forms of government support increased the harvest; workers in general, who moderated their legitimate demands while increasing their efforts; management, which, despite financial difficulties, protected productive assets; technicians and professionals, who, keeping their confidence in the country, adjusted to the hard times; housewives, who, budgeting their daily expenditures, kept the morale and spirits of their families high; and public servants, who are serving the public.

The advances are many, but the road ahead is still long and hard. It is impossible to emerge from such a deep crisis within a short time, but we must not slacken our pace, for dangers still exist if we slow our steps. In fact, we must redouble our efforts. Let us keep fighting vigorously and with patriotism, We must remain united and in solidarity regarding what is fundamental, even though we disagree on the practices or secondary issues. We must study, work, save and expand our productive capacity. Let us do this with enthusiasm and tenacity. Let no one shirk his responsibility toward the nation. Mexico demands the best from each of us. What each individual does will be reflected in the nation as a whole. All Mexicans count in the effort to continue overcoming difficulties and to give the best to Mexico.

There are increasing threats to world peace. Wars and regional conflicts are grim realities. A nuclear world war is a tragic possibility. The world economy is in a state of crisis. In the face of this reality, Mexico will continue fighting for a peaceful solution to conflicts, for disarmament arrangements, and for international cooperation to overcome the world economic crisis and bring about fair and just development for all peoples of the world. We will firmly maintain our essential foreign policy principles because they are the best defense of our vital interests. Facing a convulsed and bellicose world, we will strengthen our internal peace, our solidarity being justice among us. But, I insist, our main responsibility is to maintain internal harmony, peace within our nation, because this is supposedly the indispensable basis for liberty, democracy, justice, and progress.

Fellow countrymen, I ask solidarity and confidence from you. I need the perseverance and efforts of everyone. If Mexico is now moving ahead, 1984 will be the decisive year to overcome the crisis and start on the road to recovery.

In this year, 1984, let's work with vigor and responsibility. Let's purify our nationalism and patriotism. Let's keep democracy and liberty alive and growing. Let's make a daily effort to be more just.

We are the strength of Mexico, of this Mexico that so many generations of patriots and heroes bequeathed to us; of this Mexico for which we are now responsible, and which we should bequeath to our children as a nation that is free, independent, just and prosperous.

I am sure, without a doubt, that we Mexicans will continue to respond to the challenges of these times with talent and will, with a renewed confidence in our destiny, and with a passionate love for Mexico.

BRIEFS

FEDERAL BUDGET -- The Mexican Chamber of Deputies yesterday approved the federal budget for 1984, which totals 11.7 trillion pesos. [Summary] [Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 28 Dec 83 p 3 PA]

PETROLEUM RESERVES -- Pemex Director Mario Ramon Beteta told deputies yesterday that Pemex's debt in 1982 was $20 billion, and that this year it has been reduced by almost $2 billion. He also indicated that the country's proven petroleum reserves amount to 72 billion barrels. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 2 Dec 83 pp 1-A, 12-A PA]

NATIONALIZED BANKS INDEMNIFICATION -- The federal government decided yesterday to pay more than 1.263 billion pesos in indemnification to the shareholders of eight banks that were nationalized 15 months ago. They are the Banco de Provincias, Banco Capitalizador de Monterrey, Banco de Comercio, Banco del Centro, Banco Mercantil de Zacatecas, Banco Panamericano, Banco Provincial del Norte, and Banco de Promocion y Fomento. This brings the number of banks that have been indemnified to date to 24. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Dec 83 p 7 PA]

CREDIT FOR GOVERNMENT -- From January to June 1983, the Federal Government has received credit in the amount of 4.46 billion pesos. The information was made available by the Secretariat of Programming and Budget. Credit obtained in foreign currency by the Federal Government in this period totalled 2.583 billion pesos, while the private sector received 2.301 billion pesos. [Summary] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 17 Dec 83 PA]

IMPORT-EXPORT FIGURES -- During the first 10 months of 1983, merchandise exports increased by $259 million, while imports decreased by $6,687,000,000 compared to the same period in 1982. The increase in foreign sales was due to higher non-oil exports, amounting to $341 million. Oil exports were reduced by $82 million over the same period. [all figures as published] [Summary] [Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 28 Dec 83 pp 1,2 financial section PA]

COPPER MINE PRODUCTION -- Hermosillo, Sonora, 1 Jan -- According to Sonora State mining director Ariel Echeverri, the "La Caridad" mine in Nacozari has yielded 150,000 tons of copper. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Jan 84 p 7 PA]

COSTA RICA

MONGE, GUTIERREZ ON RESULTS OF STONE VISIT

PA051618 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Costa Rica is more than a symbol of democracy; I think it is a symbol of what we are looking for in Central America, Richard Stone, special U.S. ambassador, said at the end of a meeting with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge.

President Monge said that the work President Reagan has entrusted to Ambasssador Stone is sensitive, difficult, and complex. The head of state said he must thank tboth Stone and President Reagan for having kept him abreast of their efforts, steps, and proposals. Monge recalled that he has met with Ambassador Stone on several occasions,, both in Costa Rica and in Miami when he visited Florida at the invitation of U.S. labor unions.

President Monge said this latest meeting with Ambassador Stone was positiive. Stone reiterated U.S. support for the efforts of the Contadora Group during his mmeeting with President Monge.

The United States hopes the path chosen by the Contadora Group will be succcessful, President Monge said, adding that this statement is in response to charges that President Reagan only believes in the military option. This charge is not true, beecause he has always been openly and categorically supportive of the Contadora effort. The president noted that the U.S. position -- with which Costa Rica agrees -- is that tthe road to peace in Central America must inevitably pass over the bridge of democraccy.

Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez described the support for Contadora as positive. The reiterated and clear U.S. support for the efforts of the Contadora Group and the announcement that Ambassador Richard Stone will today travel to Nicaragua were the most outstanding aspects of the visit by President Ronald Reagan's special envoy.

In a statement to the press, Gutierrez said that although it was true that the U.S. Government had previously made some statements of support for the Contadora Group, those statements were not as full and categorical as those made by Stone. He added that the announcement that Stone will travel to Managua to meet with Nicaraguan Government leaders is positive for the efforts to achieve peace in the area. Stone left for San Salvador after staying some 4 hours in Costa Rica.

HAVANA CITES NICARAGUAN ENVOY ON CONTRA BUILDUP

PA052003 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Ambassador to Costa Rica Leonor Arguello has charged in San Jose that the counterrevolutionary groups are preparing to attack Nicaragua from Costa Rican territory.

She alerted the Costa Rican authorities concerning this, explaining that the anti-Sandinist groups are operating in the northern zones of Costa Rica, which border on Nicaragua.

During the last 48 hours, counterrevolutionaries coming from Honduras tried to seize Ciudad Antigua, in Nicaragua's Neuva Segovia Department, but they were repelled by both the Sandinist Army and militias.

EL SALVADOR

COMMENTARY VIEWS STONE VISITS, 'INTERVENTION'

PA052324 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1815 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Station editorial]

[Text] Richard Stone is here again. The Reagan administration's special envoy for Central America arrived in San Salvador yesterday. Stone has visited the region many times since his appointment, and as is to be expected, El Salvador has always been included on his agenda. It is worthwhile, then, to comment on the visit by this illustrious millionaire visitor.

To begin with, Stone's presence in El Salvador is purely and simply an example of U.S. intervention in our domestic affairs. Although we know little of political theory, we know that our country is a sovereign state. At least this is what our Constitution says. This mean, among other things, that we have the power to attain self-determination. Plainly speaking, this means we can govern ourselves, make our own decisions, and not allow foreign nations to tell us how to manage our national and international affairs.

Now, we will not start rending our garments and carrying on a political discourse on complaints about the offensive of the United States. However, as inhabitants of this country, we know that the presence of the United States is not only real and concrete but is almost accepted as inevitable.

This is true. We understand that Americans are so deeply involved in Salvadoran affairs that their presence and influence must be considered when we make plans. Within this framework, we ask: What has been achieved by Mr Stone's trips? Has any progress been made in the difficult quest for peace? Are we closer today to an understanding and dialogue than we were 6 months ago?

Sincerely, we don't think so. Perhaps we lack sufficient political clarity, but we still see that Stone's efforts have achieved nothing positive; instead, they have had some negative results. We remember that before Stone and the guerrillas met, we had at least hoped for satisfactory results. However, what happens today, in January 1984? Nothing has appeared in the way of a peaceful solution. Stone insists that the possibility of a dialogue no longer exists, and that since the guerrillas did not accept Stone's and the Peace Commission's proposals, the war must continue. Thus, we believe that Stone has harmed the Salvadoran people instead of helping them. We all know that war harms everyone.

We ask: Are the Reagan administration and Stone himself willing to hold dialogue and negotiate? Or is it part of their propaganda platform to speak of peace and at the same time carry out military activities? If we stick to the facts, they answer this themselves. The U.S. Government speaks of peace and welfare for the Salvadoran people, but it simultaneously insists that we continue a military confrontation.

Something must be clear in our minds. The Armed Forces face a powerful enemy who has at its disposal means and support from various sources. However, this does not justify arming our people and continuing to kill ourselves. Rather, we should knock on our opponent's door and serenely and bravely reach an understanding.

This would be exerting our national sovereignty and making our own decisions, in a word, practicing self-determination. But this is precisely and sadly our paradox. How can we practice self-determination if, instead of rejecting foreign intervention, we support it and cry for it? This is the cruel reality. Today it is Stone; tomorrow it will be someone else. In this coming and going of people, the Salvadoran people are always left out of the decision-making.

Havana on Stone's Visit

PA052022 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Richard Stone, the U.S. presidential envoy for Central America, has met in San Salvador with the Salvadoran regime's leaders, but thus far there has been no official report on what was discussed at the meeting.

After the meeting, Stone left for Managua, where he will meet with Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and other high-ranking Nicaraguan leaders.

Stone had previously visited Costa Rica, Honduras, and Guatemala.

The U.S. special envoy's new tour of Central America has been linked with the Contadora Group meeting that will open tomorrow, Friday, in Panama.

PRIVATE BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS ISSUE COMMUNIQUE

PA050345 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 13

[Communique issued by several Salvadoran private business associations: "Considerations on the Latest Events Affecting the Salvadoran People"]

[Excerpts] The representative entities of our country's productive sectors deem it extremely urgent to announce, both to the nation and the friendly countries of the Free World, the following conclusions on the most recent developments affecting the Salvadoran people:

1. At the beginning of 1984, the terrorist forces serving the Soviet Union's expansionism -- as they admitted in a clandestine message broadcast a few days ago when they occupied a commercial radio station -- dealt one of their severest blows through the destruction of the Cuscatlan Bridge, which in addition to being an engineering work of which the Salvadorans are proud, had been built through the effort of thousands of people without incurring a huge debt.

2. Although the destruction of this important bridge might be explained by its consideration as a military target, all the Salvadoran people suffer the consequences.

3. Our productive sectors, a part of Salvadoran society, vigorously condemn this new action, which reveals the rage and insistence of the groups without a homeland who carried it out. The Salvadoran people have repudiated them at all times and have rejected all efforts at subjugation, which these forces have accomplished in Cuba, Angola, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and other nations under the Soviet Union's totalitarian regime.

We also condemn the loathsome and inhuman abuses recently committed against people who are worthwhile members of our society. These acts keep honest, working citizens in a state of unease.

We demand that our country's authorities carry out an exhaustive investigation of these incidents, as well as the immediate application of justice for the culprits, whoever they are. The wave of violence lashing out at our country has reached unprecedented heights. Corruption has increased every day and has even become institutionalized. All sectors of our population demand an honest explanation of what happened and how, since we unfortunately frequently learn of serious events in our country through foreign news media. Such events concern and involve all of us, and the better informed we are, the better we will be prepared to defend ourselves.

4. These incidents demonstrate an aggravation of the situation of terror, abduction, murder and destruction that the Salvadoran people have been suffering from for 4 years. We again ask: Don't the highest authorities think that a state of emergency for the nation must be considered and that all efforts by the citizens should be coordinated to this end? Our sectors have determined that we can offer ample and effective cooperation in civilian activities to make our Armed Forces more effective in the fulfillment of their high, delicate responsibility, such as the preservation of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and watching over the population's security. The grievous events that occurred in El Paraiso Garrison have confirmed the need to seriously consider this proposal.

5. We cannot ignore our country's policy of excessive dependence on those friends who help us repel aggression. Sometimes their aid is given us little by little and under certain conditions. We thank all friendly countries for the aid they have offered us, but this aid should not compromise our national sovereignty.

6. We are about to undergo a new electoral process. Elections have been set for 25 March 1984. This implies a new commitment in our homeland. We should assume this commitment with our highest sense of responsibility, fully aware that the road to be followed depends on the results of these elections, whether we attain a free, democratic society or have a subjugated, totalitarian society imposed upon us. Our Salvadoran people already know which political and ideological currents lead to this latter condition.

7. Finally, we hereby express our firm determination not to forsake the struggle, despite all difficulties. As we have said before, we again promise to remain staunchly in favor of a final victory over this hard, bloody struggle for the defense and maintenance of our democratic system.

San Salvador, 5 January 1984

Signed: National Association of Private Enterprise, ANEP; Salvadoran Industrialists Association, ASI; National Federation of Small Businesses, FENAPE: Chamber of Commerce and Industry of El Salvador; Council of Agricultural Associations; and Association of Salvadoran Businessmen and Industrialists.

FMLN STATION ON DEATH SQUADS' POWER, IMPUNITY

PA060257 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] As long as there is dictatorship, the death squads will exist. Bodies of youths murdered and tortured by the death squads, which belong to the dictatorship's Armed Forces, continue to appear. Dead bodies appear at the usual rate. Arbitrary arrests and disappearances continue with the usual impunity. The only difference is that in recent months the death squads have had political leverage that they didn't have before.

The leaders of the death squads have achieved such power and impunity that they have now dared to send their video cassette recordings to the victims they subsequently savagely torture and assassinate. They have achieved such power that their communiques are broadcast daily over radio and television and published in the press, as if they were any other political party. Those who hold the highest positions in the National Police, the Constituent Assembly, or the Defense Ministry are the only ones who could have such power. Never before have the death squads had so much power, impunity, and political leverage as they do now. They have so much power that they can afford the luxury of defying the gringos who are concerned about the military aid they urgently need to send the dictatorship.

This morning the U.S. State Department dared to cynically state that there has been progress in the human rights situation in El Salvador, and that therefore, military aid to the dictatorship should increase. The State Department says that there has been progress in respect for human rights because the Army officers who are the leaders of the death squads will allegedly be sent out of the country.

This is the justice and democracy the gringos want to give to us. We ask: Will the gringos remove from the Army Lopez Nuila, Moran, Domingo Monterrosa, Bustillo [National Police, Treasury Police, 3d Brigade, and Air Force commanders, respectively] or so many criminals in uniforms for the assassination of 40,000 Salvadorans? Reagan is mistaken if he thinks his proteges will escape popular justice. Our triumph will mark the hour of justice against the tyrants of our people.

HAVANA ON U.S. DELIVERY OF PREFABRICATED BRIDGES

FL051747 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1232 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The United States has delivered two prefabricated bridges to El Salvador to replace the Cuscatlan Bridge, which was blown up by FMLN guerrillas. According to reports from San Salvador, the U.S.-made bridges have already arrived at Acajutla Port, Sonsonate Department, in western El Salvador.

Official sources disclosed that these prefabricated structures will be installed over the Lempa River, between the 15 September Dam and the Cuscatlan Bridge, which was dynamited on 1 January.

Meanwhile, Radio Farabundo Marti read a war bulletin on the attack on El Paraiso Garrison. According to this bulletin, the only officer of the regime who survived this attack was Captain Pedro Wilfredo Hidalgo Avila.

HAVANA ON AFTERMATH OF EL PARAISO OPERATION

PA051759 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The U.S. Government has given two prefabricated bridges to the Salvadoran regime to replace the Cuscatlan Bridge, which was recently destroyed by the FMLN guerrilla forces. According to reports received from San Salvador, the U.S. bridges are already in the port of Acajutla, in Sonsonate Department.

Meanwhile, the rebel station Radio Farabundo Marti has announced that Captain Wilfredo Hidalgo Avila is the only Army officer who survived the attack on the garrison in El Paraiso, headquarters of the regime's 4th Infantry Brigade.

Among the officers killed in action, the radio station mentioned Lieutenant Colonel (Ricardo Baquero), second in command at that military garrison; Lieutenant Colonel (Hugo Stanley Orantes), third in command at the garrison; and Captain (Monterrosa) and Lieutenant (Ruiz Flores), commanders of the 2d and 3d Battalions, respectively.

During the seizure of the garrison at El Paraiso, the guerrilla forces inflicted 300 casualties on the Army and captured 200 prisoners, of which more than 100 were turned over to the priests in the locality of Tejutla because the military denied access to this area by the International Red Cross.

In view of the situation created by the successful guerrilla activities of the last few days, the Salvadoran Army has withdrawn many of the troops it had stationed in Chalatenango, Cuscatlan, and the region of Guazapa, in order to reinforce the defensive ring around the capital.

HAVANA REPORTS AIR FORCE ATTACK ON PERQUIN

PA050447 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Air Force has heavily bombed the town of Perquin in Morazan Department, causing a large number of casualties, according to survivors of this criminal action.

Radio Venceremos, official spokesman of the FMLN, said the bombing was a desperate action on the part of the Army in the face of the victorious guerrilla occupation of El Paraiso headquarters, seat of the 4th Infantry Brigade, and the dynamiting of the Cuscatlan Bridge, one of the most important in the country.

HAVANA COMMENTS ON FMLN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FL051800 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] News on the situation in El Salvador mainly shows the repression of Alvaro Magana's regime over the civilian population, demonstrating its powerlessness before the guerrillas' successes in their last actions. Indiscriminate bombings by the regime's Air Force on Perquin and assassinating the civil population at dawn have been the Army's answers to the FMLN's attacks. The Armed Forces have not been able to do anything about the overwhelming triumphs of the guerrillas in the taking of the barracks of the 4th Infantry Brigade in El Paraiso, Chalatenango, and the blowing up of the Cuscatlan Bridge, one of the most important in the country.

Radio Rebelde and Radio Venceremos have indicated that the air attacks are becoming more frequent in eastern El Salvador. A guerrilla spokesman directly accused Colonel Domingo Monterosa of using sustained bombing as a permanent tactic against the undefended villages.

It has also been reported that a few hours ago the FMLN liberated more than 100 prisoners in Tejutla, in northern El Salvador. The prisoners were put under the care of the priests of Tejutla because the regime would not let the International Red Cross enter the area.

An article by the INDEPENDENT NEWS AGENCY [AIP] reported that more than 200 persons were liberated after being captured in the barracks of El Paraiso.

Radio Farabundo Marti accused the regime's military high command of ordering the mass burial of nearly 100 soldiers, who fell in the El Paraiso fighting, in order to conceal the number of deaths.

GUATEMALA

BORDER TALKS WITH EL SALVADOR UNSUCCESSFUL

PA052346 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The border between El Salvador and Guatemala will remain closed to trade activities following an unsuccessful meeting between high-level delegations from the two countries held here today. One of the members who participated in the meeting -- and who asked not to be identified -- tersely said: No agreement was reached. The meeting lasted more than 7 hours at the Bank of Guatemala. It has been learned that both parties will meet in the future, but no specific date or place was given.

The Salvadoran delegation was led by Alberto Neitez, president of the Reserve Bank of El Salvador. He was accompanied by several advisers: Roberto Ortiz Avalos, Victor Steiner, and Federico [illegible]ch, of the industrial and private sector. Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez Cardona [as published; bureau records list Arturo Padilla in this position] led the Guatemalan delegation.

A border closure is also in effect between Guatemala and Honduras, and this has caused large losses to the industrialists and merchants who trade in Guatemalan fruits and vegetables.

On 28 November, the Guatemalan Government decreed that exports to El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica should first be registered. This measure had been adopted earlier that month against Nicaragua. The Guatemalan Government adopted this measure so that 80 percent of its exports to associates in the much-damaged CACM were paid for in dollars and the remaining 20 percent paid for in the countries' own currency, through the Central American Chamber of Compensation [Camara Centroamericana de Compensacion].

Following the Guatemalan measure, the other governments, except Nicaragua, closed their borders. Costa Rica reopened their border after reaching an agreement, but El Salvador and Honduras have not done so.

GUERRILLA FORCES REPORT ON RECENT ACTIVITIES

PA051504 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Guatemala City -- Guatemala's Poor People's Guerrilla Army has inflicted 39 casualties on the regime's troops during actions carried out in the northwestern departments of El Quiche and Huehetenango. The news agency ENFOPRENSA has released a bulletin issued by this organization, which is a member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity. According to the bulletin, during these actions which were carried out in recent weeks, two military helicopters were also damaged. Two guerrilla fighters lost their lives in these rebel operations.

Havana Quotes ENFROPRENSA

FL051743 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1232 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] The Poor People's Guerrilla Army [EGP] of Guatemala has inflicted 39 casualties on the troops of Mejia Victores' regime in actions carried out in [words indistinct] in El Quiche and Huehuetenango Departments.

The ENFROPRENSA News Agency disseminated a bulletin issued by the EGP, member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, that noted that two helicopters were damaged during these actions.

HAVANA ON ACTIVITIES OF TWO REBEL GROUPS

PA051809 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Units of the Rebel Armed Forces, FAR, a member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, has attacked a detachment of the Guatemalan regime's Army and developed five of its vehicles in Peten Department.

According to a communique released by that organization, other guerrilla units occupied the villages of El Chal and La Pita, as well as four stretches of road in the municipalities of Dolores and Santa Ana. The FAR document also charges that the Guatemalan regime's Army has recently stepped up the kidnappings and disappearances of peasants in Peten Department as part of its terror campaign against the civilian population.

For its part, another armed Guatemalan organization, the Poor People's Guerrilla Army, has announced that in the clashes of the last few weeks it has inflicted 39 casualties on the regime's Army and damaged 2 military helicopters.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO HONDURAS -- Brigadier General Oscar Rodolfo Cuyun Medina today was sworn in as the new Guatemalan ambassador to Honduras. Until today he was the military attache at the Guatemalan Embassy in Honduras. [Summary] [Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 4 Jan 84 PA]

AMNESTY BENEFICIARIES -- According to reports, 86 people, including women and children, today sought shelter under last year's amnesty decree. They surrendered to the authorities in Coban, Alta Verapaz. It has been reported that they had been forced by subversives to participate in illegal activities. [Summary] [Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 4 Jan 84 PA]

HONDURAS

FOREIGN SECRETARY ON STONE VISIT, CONTADORA

PA052039 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpts] The National Security Council met yesterday with President Roberto Suazo Cordova presiding. We will now listen to remarks by Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica:

[Begin recording] [Paz Barnica] To begin, the meeting was held to outline activities for 1984 and evaluate what was discussed by the National Security Council during 1983 regarding the country's vital interests.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Foreign Secretary, what was discussed during the meeting?

[Paz Barnica] As I said, it was just another meeting, although it was the first to be held this year. At the beginning of 1984, we analyzed what was done in 1983.

The overall Central American problem was also carefully analyzed, including the situation of each individual nation in the region. This was done to strengthen the position of President Suazo Cordova's constitutional government, which favors an overall and regional peace for Central America based on democratic and pluralistic institutions emerging from the freely expressed desires of the people.

In order to evaluate the situation of conflict being experienced by Central America -- the crisis in El Salvador, the Nicaraguan situation, and the situation in the other Central American countries, including friendly countries such as Costa Rica -- we also carefully studied the actions of the Contadora Group.

We will participate in the fifth meeting of the Contadora Group with the five Central American foreign ministers that will begin on 7 January in Panama.

The Contadora Group has submitted a document, a draft document, that will be debated during this week's multilateral discussions that will be held in Panama, discussions that will carry over into next week. Honduras will also submit its conclusions, which seek and support peace.

New data was evaluated during this meeting of the National Security Council. This data was basically directed at seeking a peaceful solution to the Central American crisis.

Economic cooperation was also discussed, regarding Honduras' joining the aid program that the U.S. Government has implemented for the Caribbean Basin. Aspects pertaining to the everyday individual and collective problems of Honduran society were also discussed.

[Reporter] President Reagan's personal envoy has remarked that the military situation in Central America is very delicate. What is your opinion?

[Paz Barnica] Yes, I (?know) about Mr Stone's remarks, and I met with him yesterday afternoon when he met with President Suazo Cordova [words indistinct] the minister of the presidency [words indistinct] and we met with Ambassador Stone.

[Words indistinct] He was arriving from Guatemala, and from here he will presumably travel to El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua to continue his mission in several Central American countries and other countries in Latin America, such as Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Mexico, etc.

Regarding Mr Stone's remarks, I imagine he is referring to certain situations that have emerged during the past few weeks, basically the internal conflict in El Salvador. There is also the question of the Nicaraguan against Nicaraguan confrontation on Nicaraguan territory. [end recording]

BRIEFS

3D BATTALION TRAINING -- Eight hundred members of the 3d Infantry Battalion from Naco, Cortes Department, have left for Trujillo Department to be trained in counterinsurgency warfare at Puerto Castilla Regional Military Training and Security Center. The men will stay for 2 months. The 9th Infantry Battalion from Quimistan, Santa Barbara Department, will replace the 3d Battalion during its absence. Both belong to the 105th Infantry Brigade. [Summary] [San Pedro Sula EL HERALDO in Spanish 3 Jan 84 p 32 PA]

NICARAGUA

REPORTAGE ON STONE'S TALKS WITH ORTEGA, D'ESCOTO

Stone Arrives in Managua

PA060120 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Richard Stone, special U.S. ambassador for Central America, arrived this morning accompanied by Jon Glassman and Todd Greentree, U.S. State Department officials.

Stone, on his third visit to Nicaragua in four trips to Central America, refused to make any statements to newsmen upon arriving at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport. He was met at the airport by U.S. Ambassador Anthony Quainton and Saul Arana, who is in charge of U.S. affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

[Begin Arana recording] The Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction has always been willing to hold dialogue, especially with the U.S. Government. We have always welcomed visitors of all ranks [words indistinct] including U.S. officials. Stone has visited the region several times [words indistinct]. This is his fourth trip.

An official agenda has been prepared. At 1100 he will meet with the foreign minister, and at 1500 with Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. He will present positions we discussed during previous visits and try to further clarify them. We hope he brings with him something specific [words indistinct]. It is worth noting that Stone always arrives in the region when important things are taking place, for instance, when the Contadora Group is holding meetings for the purpose of seeking peace and [words indistinct] at the time of his visits, the aggression against Nicaragua is intensified. [Passage indistinct] [end recording]

Ministry Issues Communique

PA060430 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry in Managua on 5 January]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Nicaragua states that U.S. roving Ambassador Richard Stone arrived in Managua at 0930 on 5 January 1984, accompanied by Jon D. Glassman and Doyle Gentry, to hold talks with Nicaraguan Government officials.

Ambassador Stone met with Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction; at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman and other ranking government officials.

The talks were held in a friendly atmosphere, in which the participants constructively discussed issues of interest and concern to both governments.

At 1700 today Ambassador Stone and his group were accompanied to the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport by officials of the Foreign Ministry.

[Dated] Managua, 5 January 1984

[Signed] Press and Information Department of the Foreign Ministry

Station Analyzes Visit

PA050438 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] Dear listeners, as we announced in this morning's headlines, today's news highlight, and the item of greatest concern to our listeners, is Richard Stone's lightning tour. During his visit, statements that are food for thought were made.

Richard Stone and Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova met for an hour yesterday. After the meeting, Stone said that the Central American situation is very delicate and extremely risky at present.

Upon his departure from Washington, Stone announced that he would visit Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica, but in the past few hours his schedule has been modified, and visits to the capitals of El Salvador, Colombia, and Nicaragua have been added to his itinerary. Reports issued this morning state that Stone will be in Managua tomorrow. He plans to meet today with Belisario Betancur.

Circumstances surrounding Stone's visit arouse much speculation as a result of a series of developments that have taken place in the United States itself. White House officials have voiced great concern over the blows dealt by the Salvadoran guerrillas in the past few days. The Salvadoran Army has confirmed officially that 100 Salvadoran soldiers were killed in an attack launched by guerrillas on a military garrison north of San Salvador. This is the highest death toll registered in a single clash with the guerrillas.

The U.S. Government seems to be looking for ways to counter the action or to exercise political pressure, as it does every time there is a strong resurgence of guerrilla activity. On those occasions, it always attempts to increase the pressure on Nicaragua.

We have observed an upsurge in counterrevolutionary attacks. National authorities have reported that in the past few days Sandinist People's Militias repelled a counter-revolutionary attack on Ciudad Antigua, in Nueva Segovia Department.

Also with regard to U.S. policy, the newspaper THE WASHINGTON POST has indicated that Paul Gorman, head of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, is the real U.S. proconsul in the Central American region.

According to the newspaper, the head of the U.S. Southern Command is not only carrying out military functions but is also engaging in political activities. He has worked for the reactivation of the CONDECA [Central American Defense Council] and, according to THE WASHINGTON POST report, is now promoting Central American military intervention in Nicaragua.

The head of the U.S. Southern Command is promoting an intervention by Central American armies. THE WASHINGTON POST notes that there is a dispute between the Pentagon and the State Department regarding the handling of Central American affairs. Unfortunately, they are playing with the destiny of our people and the rest of Central America.

D'ESCOTO COMMENTS ON CONTADORA GROUP, STONE TOUR

PA051945 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpts] A news dispatch datelined San Jose, Costa Rica, received by our wire service today states that Carlos Jose Gutierrez, the new Costa Rican foreign minister, has said that the Contadora Group meeting will review Nicaragua's proposals, the Contadora Group proposals contained in the 21-point Document of Objectives, and the proposals to be presented jointly by Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, in order to draft a peace document that will be supported by all the countries involved. This is what the news dispatch states.

However, this evening we interviewed Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, who said: The Contadora Group's 7 January meeting in Panama has been called to discuss the proposal that the Contadora Group sent to each nation on 20 December, and not -- as was stated in a news dispatch -- to discuss three proposals.

Foreign Minister D'Escoto's statement was made in response to remarks by Carlos Jose Gutierrez, the new Costa Rican foreign minister, to the effect that the Contadora Group meeting will review the group's 21-point document, Nicaragua's peace proposals, and the latest proposal submitted by Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica.

D'Escoto said that relatively speaking, those statements by the Costa Rican foreign minister are false, because the only topic on the agenda is the Contadora Group's 21-point document, which includes the peace proposals submitted by the Nicaraguan revolutionary government. Here is Foreign Minister D'Escoto's statement, made exclusively to our station:

[Begin recording] [D'Escoto] In the first place, we have no knowledge of any proposal such as the one that has reportedly been drafted by the four Central American countries. Actually, we have received absolutely nothing. Thus far, Nicaragua has been the only Central American nation to submit detailed and specific proposals in compliance with the agreements contained in the 21-point Document of Objectives.

News dispatches reported that President Monge thought the Contadora Group proposal was a good starting point for discussion. Now it turns out that there is an attempt to backtrack on that position, and we do not understand this very well. [3-second break in transmission]

[Unidentified reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, political observers of the Central American (?situation) have said that U.S. special envoy Richard Stone's current trip is intended to pressure the Contadora Group into accepting the proposal made by these four nations -- Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica.

[D'Escoto] In the first place, Stone is only visiting the Central American nations. No, he also just traveled to Colombia. [Passage indistinct] You know that despite nominal support for the process of negotiations sponsored by the Contadora Group, the Reagan administration has in effect stood firm in its attempt to impose its will on the Central American nations by force.

Moreover, it has been said that the main architect of U.S. foreign policy toward Central America is Mr Fred Ikle, under secretary of defense, who has clearly stated that the United States considers negotiations insufficient in solving the Central American crisis, and believes that a military victory is needed, that is to say, a confrontation between the revolutionary forces in Central America and the imposition of the U.S. political will by force on the nations of Central America.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, thank you very much for your statement. These have been Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto's statements for this station. [end recording]

Havana: D'Escoto on Contadora

FL051915 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1613 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Managua -- Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has reiterated that the only point of the agenda of the upcoming Contadora Group meeting is the analysis of a recent proposal made by Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and Panama.

Commenting on statements that news agencies attribute to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, D'Escoto said that he is surprised because they contradict what Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has said. He added that while Gutierrez stresses that they will discuss proposals made by Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica, as well as one made by the Contadora Group, Monge said that the latter was a good basis for discussion. Now, D'Escoto remarked, it just so happens that an attempt is made to go back and we don't understand it. In addition, the foreign minister said that the Reagan government is still bent on imposing its will on the area.

Havana: D'Escoto on Stone

PA051947 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has asserted in Managua that despite Washington's rhetorical endorsement of the Contadora Group's efforts, President Ronald Reagan's government remains firm in its efforts to impose its will on the Central American countries through the use of force. The foreign minister dismissed the importance of the new tour of the area by U.S. Special Ambassador Richard Stone, because, he stressed, Fred Ikle, under secretary of the Pentagon [title as heard], is the main architect of the U.S. foreign policy for Central America. D'Escoto recalled that Ikle has clearly stated that the United States regards negotiations as insufficient to resolve the Central American crisis. Ikle, D'Escoto added, advocates military solutions, that is, crushing the revolutionary forces in Central America.

REPORTAGE ON ATTACKS ON PORT OF POTOSI

Third Attack on Port

PA051933 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1710 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Live relay from Potosi by reporter Luis Arroliga; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] ...national territory. For the third time in the last 3 days, the port of Potosi has been the object of cowardly attacks by Piranha boats, gunboats, and planes from the San Pedro Sula, Amapala, and San Lazaro military bases in Honduras.

Last night at 2315, two planes appeared, as well as two Piranha boats and a gunboat. The boats were 700-800 meters off the customs installation at Potosi village, 95 km west of El Viejo. Rockets, cannon shells, mortar shells, and volleys from highly sophisticated weapons that our Armed Forces have been unable to identify rained on Potosi for 2 hours and 15 minutes.

FSLN personnel, this correspondent, and companero Walter Florez, political secretary of the regional branch of the FSLN in Morazan and El Viego, toured Potosi beginning at 0500, and we were able to see the disastrous damage done by this tremendous shelling from the Piranha boats, the gunboats, and planes from the Honduran Amapala and San Lazaro military bases located at a distance of some 15 km in one and another coordinate in front of the customs office at Potosi. [sentence as heard]

In this cowardly attack of over 2 hours, Companero Jorge Salmeron Hernandez lost his life. He was hit and blown to pieces by a rocket at the port installations at 0100. Several companeros of the port office and the Sandinist People's Militia post at Potosi were wounded by shrapnel, including Eduardo Molina Castillo, head of the customs and immigration post at Potosi, who was seriously wounded.

The following companero militiamen and members of the Potosi port office were wounded: Jose Aquino, Porfirio Hernandez, Jose Rojas, Javier Romero, Alberto Hernandez, and Abraham Romero, who is the chief of the Sandinist People's Militia company in Potosi.

The cowardly attack damaged the customs office at Potosi, which was hit by three shells on its side and front. Its roof was also hit by rockets launched from the planes. The front and windows of the health center were damaged by the shelling. Two rockets started a fire in a sugarcane field and killed several domestic animals belonging to our humble farmworkers.

We wish to report to the listeners of La Voz de Nicaragua throughout the republic that we are reporting from the very area of combat, to which we were taken exclusively by the FSLN personnel at El Viejo.

Had it not been for the fact that the Civil Defense headed by Companero Evangelico Mario Toruno took all women and children out of the village between 1400 and 1600, a tremendous genocide would have been perpetrated on our children, who were taken to a safe place in the mountains, 4 km from Potosi. They slept there so as not to be hit by the mortars, rockets, and some very sophisticated weapons that Orman Rivas Osorio and Abraham Santo, our companeros from the immigration office, have been unable to identify. This weapon was fired by the main gunboat protecting the Piranhas. It fired a projectile like a big flare, which when it came down, fired volleys that lasted 20-30 seconds. Our armed forces have been unable to identify this type of weapon.

Havana on Protest Note

FL051623 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1232 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Managua -- Airplanes and speedboats coming from Honduras attacked Potosi Port in the Gulf of Fonseca, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has charged.

In a vigorous protest note sent to Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto noted that mortar shells and rockets damaged a ferry and destroyed a peasant dwelling. The note added that two speedboats fired on Potosi in Chinandega Department, located in western Nicaragua, for 10 minutes.

D'Escoto stated that these actions join the endless list of provocations and open violations of Nicaragua's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

FDN Spokesman on Results

PA052016 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1920 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- A spokesman for the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], an anti-Sandinist group, has informed ACAN-EFE that in a new attack carried out early this morning, FDN commandos "completely destroyed the military installations at Potosi Port."

According to the source, "early this morning our specialized commandos subjected the Potosi Port military installations to heavy and prolonged artillery shelling, and at this very moment the installations are being consumed by a raging fire."

This morning the FDN announced that its forces had attacked Potosi Port, and Puerto Sandino as well, on the evenings of 2 and 3 January. According to the FDN report, this third attack "was the most destructive of all, and we are awaiting confirmation that two coast guard cutters were destroyed."

ARMORED VEHICLE PARADE INAUGURATES BRIGADE

PA041426 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Dec 83 p 10

[Excerpt] Dozens of Soviet armored vehicles participated in a parade yesterday after the inauguration of the capital's 31st Motorized Infantry Brigade. Prior to this, Commander Humberto Ortega had reviewed the war-like actions carried out in 1983.

The parade of the new armored vehicles was followed by a marksmanship exhibition by three T-55 tanks on the banks of Lake Managua, on the grounds of a military base located northwest of Managua. These exercises were carefully observed by the diplomatic corps accredited in Managua.

Prior to the display of the armored vehicles, which can carry at least 12 men at a speed of 50 or 60 km per hour (our estimate), Commander Ortega placed the contra forces' casualties for the year at 2,414, adding that 300 Sandinist soldiers and 947 civilians had also been killed in the armed actions.

HAVANA ON COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY SETBACKS

PA051237 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Press reports reveal that counterrevolutionary forces were repelled in the communities of San Geronimo, Murra, San Diego, and La Paz, suffering heavy casualties and the loss of U.S.-manufactured war materiel.

Jaime Wheelock, member of the FSLN national leadership, said in Managua that the increased counterrevolutionary attacks in the past weeks show that U.S. Government circles are speeding up the terrorist actions of their mercenaries in Nicaragua.

Other reports indicate that the pilot and three crew members of a twin-engine aircraft brought down in September were sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment by the people's anti-Somozist tribunals of Managua. They were identified as Norberto Amador Narvaez, Benito Wilfredo Gutierrez, Jose Jaime Lau, and Miguel Angel Lopez. They were found guilty of actions against public order and security, and genocide for bombing Nicaraguan cities and towns.

ARDE REPORTS DEFEAT OF SANDINIST BATTALION

PA040350 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 3 Jan 84

[War Bulletin No 139 issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces General Command in the "mountains of Nicaragua" on 2 January 1984]

[Text] The ARDE Armed Forces General Command reports to the Nicaraguan people and the free peoples of the world:

1. At 0700 on 30 December 1983, the Jaguar 1, Jaguar 2, and Jaguar 6 Platoons of the Ramon Raudales Battalion at the command of Israel clashed with a battalion of the Managua totalitarian regime's interventionist Army in the place known as Rio Bartola.

2. After a 12-hour clash in which heavy artillery and rifles were used, the enemies of freedom suffered 70 dead and several wounded.

3. On our part we regret the heroic death of Companero Oscar, "El Tico." We also suffered five wounded.

4. Although the companeros of the Jaguar Battalion were fewer in number than those of the pro-Soviet Army, they were superior in ideals, fighting morale, and patriotism, and defeated the enemy battalion, thus confirming our true Sandinist and revolutionary spirit.

Death to the Cuban and foreign interventionist! Without totalitarianism or return to the past!

Mountains of Nicaragua, 2 January 1984. ARDE Armed Forces General Command.

VOICE OF SANDINO REPORTS 28 DEC ARDE AMBUSH

PA041819 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[War Bulletin No 143, issued by the General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, in "the Nicaraguan mountains," on 3 January]

[Text] The General Command of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, Armed Forces, reports to the Nicaraguan people and the democratic peoples of the world:

On 28 December 1983 at 0730 the Colmillo 1 Squad, commanded by Campanero Vachin, which is part of the General Francisco Estrada Column, ambushed the army of Managua's totalitarian regime at (Rio El Pajaro), in Nueva Guinea jurisdiction. The clash lasted 25 minutes, and the enemy sustained four dead and several wounded. Our fighters continue to hold their positions and have not allowed the members of the pro-Soviet army to enter that portion of Nicaraguan soil which is truly free.

Death to the Cuban interventionists! No to totalitarianism or a return to the past!

ARDE CLAIMS 500 SANDINIST CASUALTIES IN DECEMBER

PA050303 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 0000 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] San Jose -- The opposition Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, has asserted that it inflicted more than 500 casualties on the Managua totalitarian regime during 27 war actions in December. ARDE's General Command described December as the month when the war was stepped up and efforts to achieve unity of belligerent forces opposed to the infamous Managua government were increased.

December was also the month when ARDE achieved a qualitative gain, with the creation of an internal democratic assembly. The assembly consolidates ARDE's political organization, according to spokesmen of the organization opposed to the dictatorial regime of the traitorous collective.

FDN REPORTS 900 PEASANTS JOIN REBEL FORCES

PA041943 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2243 GMT 3 Jan 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 3 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- The opposition Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) announced here today that 900 peasants from the country's northern and central areas have joined the Diriangen and Jorge Salazar task forces.

Commander Tono, of the Diriangen task force, reported that 500 men have joined his group, while Commander Quiche, of the Jorge Salazar task force, reported 400 new men. These rebel forces carry out guerrilla operations in Jinotega and Matagalpa Departments, in northern and central Nicaragua.

According to Radio Station 15 September, over which the commanders spoke, armed clashes have taken place in Nueva Segovia Department. The radio report said that the Sandinists suffered eight dead in the villages of San Fernando and Santa Clara. For their part, the guerrillas suffered three wounded and retreated from some positions, "in view of the indiscriminate use of field artillery, which was threatening several civilian villages."

FDN PILOTS SENTENCED TO 30 YEARS IN PRISON

PA050023 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] The pilots of the so-called Nicaraguan Democratic Force, FDN, who entered our territory on 13 October to supply infiltrated task forces with weapons, ammunition, food, and medical supplies, were sentenced yesterday to 30 years in prison and the confiscation of their estates by the people's anti-Somozist tribunals.

Those sentenced for violating the law to safeguard order and public security are former guardsmen Roberto Amador Narvaez, Benito Wilfredo Gutierrez Guido, Jose Jaime Lau Gutierrez, and Miguel Jimenez. They were captured in the vicinity of Los Cedros, 25 km north of the Blanco River, when their pirate plane was downed by our Air Force. The sentence also states that Hugo Reinaldo Aguilar Mendez is absolved of any responsibility because he is dead.

BRIEFS

CONSERVATIVE PARTY OFFICIAL -- The Democratic Conservative Party's Legitimist Movement has sent word to the State Council secretariat confirming the party's representation in the colegislative body. Dr Enrique Sotelo Borgen has been nominated to occupy a seat at the State Council. Borgen was also appointed new coordinator of the Democratic Conservative Party. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 3 Jan 84 PA]

COFFEE EXPORTS -- In 1983 coffee exports brought in revenues of $163 million, as last year's coffee harvest was the largest in the country's history, totaling 1.6 million quintals. [Summary] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Jan 84 PA]

CASTRO VIEWS SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH L. AMERICA

PA052316 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2136 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Madrid, 5 Jan (EFE) -- Cuban President Fidel Castro has stated in an interview on Spanish television that "the further removed Spain is from the military blocs, the better its relations with Latin America and the Third World will be."

"I would like Spain to be neutral; we would like Spain to stay out of military blocs," Castro said. He added Spain "would be making a great historic mistake if it renounced the level of confidence and the level of relations possible with Latin America" and jointed a military bloc.

The Cuban politician noted that one "need only view the standard of commercial relations between Spain and Cuba and Spain and Latin America when this country enters the EEC" to see that "we might end up losing."

Regarding relations between the Cuban Government and the current Spanish Government, Castro said that "logically" there is greater political affinity with this government, "since a leftist party" is in power.

Castro positively assessed the 25 years since the Cuban revolution, and said that "throughout our struggle contact with reality has enriched the initial program, a very advanced program that envisioned the creation of the bases for building socialism."

The Cuban politician affirmed that U.S. hostility, although "it did not determine the course of our revolution, which would have marched inexorably toward socialism," did "accelerate the process and, in fact, gave it impetus."

Castro expressed the opinion that history's judgment of him will be "absolutely favorable," because although he is judged now as a revolutionary, "future generations will recognize the merit of our revolutionary struggle under such difficult conditions and with the most imperialist country of the world as a neighbor."

The Cuban leader stressed the great achievements of the revolution in the fields of education and public health, "areas in which we are the leader among the Third World countries, and ahead of a few developed countries."

Castro speculated that he was not indispensable to the current Cuban process because "we have created a collective leadership which really functions."

"I do not make unilateral decisions; all decisions are discussed by an organization, a collective leadership," he added.

SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

Arrival Reported

LD051440 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1400 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran arrived in Havana at midday today for an official 3-day visit.

He was received at Jose Marti Airport by his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca, the Spanish ambassador to Cuba, and other officials from both countries. During his stay in Cuba, Moran will meet with Fidel Castro and several Cuban Government ministers. The question of boosting trade relations is at the top of the agenda. Fernando Moran will stay on the island until Saturday and will officially inaugurate the new Spanish Embassy in Havana.

Malmierca Fetes Moran

FL052340 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Isidoro Malmierca, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of foreign relations, has given a cocktail party in honor of Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs Fernando Moran and the delegation that is accompanying him on his official visit to Cuba. A few hours earlier, the delegation placed flowers at the foot of the monument to the Cuban national hero, Jose Marti, in the Plaza of the Revolution.

USSR CULTURE MINISTER DEMICHEV ARRIVES ON VISIT

Welcomed at Airport

FL051245 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Juan Ameida and Minister of Culture Armando Hart, both Politburo members, welcomed Petr Demichev, member of the CPSU Politburo and Soviet minister of culture, at Havana's airport.

Holds Talks With Hart

FL052002 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1933 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] USSR Minister of Culture Petr Demichev and the Soviet party-government delegation visiting our country have met in this capital with Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart Davalos. Among the various matters discussed, Hart referred to the development of relations between the two ministries in the field of cooperation and in the training of education cadres.

Demichev, who is a member of the CPSU Politburo, today laid a floral wreath at the foot of the monument to our national hero, Jose Marti, in the Plaza of the Revolution. Attending the ceremony were the members of the Soviet delegation, which is visiting Cuba to attend the unveiling of the monument to Vladimir I. Lenin in this capital's Lenin Park.

COMMENTARY ANALYZES GUATEMALA'S 1984 PROSPECTS

PA060232 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 5 Jan 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The Guatemalan regime continually violated human rights in 1983. The Kidnappings, murders, disappearances, and massacres of peasants were condemned by 35 international organizations.

The UN General Assembly approved a resolution emphasizing the international community's condemnation of the frequent acts of repression, slaughter, and forced mass relocation of rural Indian communities in Guatemala. The latter has been one of the most condemned repressive practices.

In his year-end message, Oscar Mejia Victores, head of the Guatemalan regime, announced that in 1984 he plans to continue operations to concentrate the peasant population in the so-called model villages, actually concentration camps copied from the model of the strategic hamlets created by U.S. troops during the war of aggression against Vietnam. These operations are intended to isolate the Guatemalan guerrillas from their natural base of support: the unemployed and exploited Indian peasant masses.

However, despite the creation of the so-called model villages, and the most aberrant practices of terrorism, such as assassinations, massacres, and disappearances, the Guatemalan regime has been unable to stop the guerrilla actions. In December 3 guerrilla actions, staged by the URNG, were carried out in Guatemala. On 23 December rebel commandos attacked a military police convoy in Guatemala City, inflicting 20 casualties on the police. On the same day, other guerrilla groups occupied the El Naranjo and (Los Najones) farms in Suchitepequez Department. On 29 December guerrillas destroyed the military installation at the La Paz coffee plantation in San Marcos Department. It had been a base of operations for an Army detachment operating in the region for the last 6 months.

These are just a few of the 33 guerrilla actions in Guatemala in December. They clearly refute Oscar Mejia's statement in his year-end speech about the regime's alleged control of the guerrilla organizations' actions.

Opposition to the Guatemalan regime has grown in recent months, and now includes sectors of the Catholic Church, which in the past had maintained a conservative position. The economic chaos and the increasing poverty in that Central American country have strengthened the opposition. According to figures published by the IDB, in 1983 the Guatemalan economy registered a 2.3 percent decline, industrial production decreased 5 percent, private investment decreased 10 percent, exports dropped 12 percent, and the foreign debt reached more than $1.3 billion.

There are no official figures on unemployment in Guatemala, but a study by the Bank of Guatemala estimates that unemployment affects 40 percent of the workers. The situation in this regard is deteriorating daily, especially in the rural areas. IMF pressures on Guatemala to reduce the prices of traditional agricultural export products will lead to an increase in unemployment and poverty in the agricultural areas.

Despite the large amount of aid it receives from the United States, the Guatemalan regime is experiencing a grave economic crisis, and it is using criminal methods to try to stop the growing thrust of the guerrillas' actions. This is the outlook for that Central American country as 1984 begíns.

GRENADA

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY GENERAL RAMPHAL ARRIVES

FL051245 Bridgetown CANA in English 0004 GMT 5 Jan 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 4 (CANA) -- Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal arrived here tonight and said he would discuss with the island's leaders how best the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat can help reconstruction efforts in Grenada. Guyana-born Ramphal told CANA minutes after his arrival on the island that his visit was in response to a request from the nine-man interim government "to come as a matter of urgency to talk with the chairman and the members of the council."

"It's an invitation I have been happy to respond to, and what better way to start the New Year than by coming back to the Caribbean and attempting to do whatever may be within my capacity to do to help to ensure that 1984 is going to be a good year for the whole region."

Ramphal, who is paying a courtesy call on Governor-General Sir Paul Scoon tonight, said "the issue is Grenada...how can we help Grenada and how can we help the country to look forward?" Ramphal said that he was in Grenada in the spirit of the recently held Commonwealth heads of government summit in India, which had agreed that the emphasis in Grenada should be on reconstruction and not recrimination. "It is in that spirit that I'm here, and I hope that out of it (the visit) might come indications of the way in which all Commonwealth countries really would wish to help, and how and whether they can do so," he added. He said during his trip to the Caribbean he had been following up on discussions started with those regional leaders during the retreat at the New Delhi conference.

Ramphal said that before flying back to London he was hoping to make contact with the leaders of St Kitts-Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, and Jamaica. He has already been to the Bahamas, St Lucia, Barbados, Dominca, Trinidad and Tobago, and Antigua and Barbuda.

The Commonwealth secretary-general is also scheduled to meet tonight with the chairman of the interim government, Nicholas Brathwaite, at government headquarters. Ramphal is due to meet tomorrow with members of the interim administration. He is due to leave here Friday.

Talks With Officials

FL051945 Bridgetown CANA in English 1823 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 5 (CANA) -- Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shridath Ramphal, was lunching at midday with members of Grenada's caretaker government following two-and-a-half hours official talks at government headquarters this morning. Officials have declined comment on what specifically the Commonwealth head discussed with the Grenada leaders, but informed sources said further Commonwealth assistance to the island was expected to be raised. The London-based Commonwealth Secretariat has been providing technical assistance to Grenada following last October's U.S.-led invasion. Ramphal had expressed regret about the incident.

Head of the caretaker government Nicholas Brathwaite had a two-hour meeting with Ramphal at his ministry of education office last night. Without going into details, he said they discussed the part of the communique, issued at the end of November's New Delhi Commonwealth heads of government summit, which dealt with Grenada. The Commonwealth leaders, while regretting the intervention, had indicated their readiness to assist in the maintenance of law and order if asked. They also said they would be prepared to give "sympathetic consideration" to any request for assistance from the interim government.

Ramphal flew into Grenada yesterday afternoon after rounds of talks with heads of government and other officials in Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, and Trinidad and Tobago. His mission is essentially to see how the Commonwealth could assist Grenada's reconstruction after last year's strife, which left the island in disarray. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several cabinet colleagues were among at least 17 people killed when the Army seized power October 19. Six days later U.S. and Caribbean forces mounted an invasion of the island to restore order.

Commonwealth Aid Discussed

FL060209 Bridgetown CANA in English 2344 GMT 5 Jan 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Jan 5 (CANA) -- Visiting Commonwealth Secretary-General Shridath Ramphal was into more talks here tonight with four members of Grenada's interim government, working out the details of a proposed Commonwealth-financed technical and economic programme for the island, a well-place government source said. "The whole interim government would be meeting again tomorrow with Mr Ramphal and the draft agreement reached between them tonight would be brought before us for any possible approval," the source, who declined to be identified, told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA).

Dr Pat Emmanuel, spokesman for foreign affairs and tourism; Dr Allan Kirton, deputy chairman of the interim government; Joan Purcell, spokesman for labour; and Randolph Mark are the members of the Advisory Council meeting the Commonwealth secretary-general.

The London-based Ramphal arrived in Grenada yesterday for a four-day visit, his first since last October's U.S.-led invasion, of which he disapproved. The London-based Commonwealth Secretariat has already provided technical assistance to the interim government.

The government official declined to comment on what proposals the interim administration was putting forward to the Commonwealth secretary-general, who has held separate discussions last night with Nicholas Brathwaite, the chairman of the interim administration. "It's not a question of talking about what we want or what we can get from him but to sit down tomorrow and look at the draft and say if we agree or if we don't agree," he said. "What I can also tell you is that one or two of the members did tell the secretary-general that we needed money but by tommorrow we would most likely have a better position," he added. The official said that Ramphal indicated that the Commonwealth Secretariat was willing to put at the disposal of the Granada Government a pool of experts to carry out an economic analysis of the country.

During almost three hours of talks earlier today between Ramphal and the interim government, the official said the secretary-general reiterated that the Commonwealth would be willing to provide soldiers and men for a peacekeeping force for the island. Questioned about the response of the interim government on Ramphal's suggestion, the source said that there was virtually no response to the idea from any of the members of the government.

JAMAICA

ONE-PARTY PARLIAMENT TO BE SWORN IN 10 JANUARY

FL052012 Bridgetown CANA in English 1910 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 5 (CANA) -- Members of Jamaica's new one-party Parliament will be sworn in next Tuesday, parliamentary officials have announced.

All 60 members of the House of Representatives (lower house) [will be] members of Prime Minister Edward Seaga's Jamaica Labour Party (JLP); the main opposition, the People's National Party (PNP), boycotted last month's general elections. In the Senate (upper house), Prime Minister Edward Seaga created a parliamentary opposition by naming eight "independents" to sit on the opposition benches. The leader of the opposition would normally appoint eight senators. But in the absense of a holder of the office, the prime minister is empowered to name all 21 senators. It is the first time since the evolution of the two-party system here in the 1940's that all the members of the house will come from one party.

LOCAL CURRENCY DEVALUED ADDITIONAL 3 PERCENT

FL052010 Bridgetown CANA in English 1918 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 5 (CANA) -- The Jamaica dollar has been devalued a further three per cent following November's 43.4 per cent devaluation, the Central Bank said. The bank said the new median rate moves to 3.25 to the U.S. dollar from 3.15. It said the latest devaluation was made under a fortnightly review system announced on November 23 by Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Edward Seaga.

As a precondition for a stand-by credit facility being negotiated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Seaga unified the tiered exchange system that had been in force for several months and moved the official exchange rate for the local dollar from 1.78 to 3.15 dollars for a U.S. dollar. Additionally, the government provided a 15 cents band either up or down within which the buying or selling rate for the U.S. reference currency could fluctuate, and instituted a fortnightly review period for the median rate in order to maintain the competitiveness of the official system against the black market.

The new rate means that commercial banks can now quote between 3.10 and 3.40 dollars for the U.S. dollar. Today they began trading at the upper end of the scale. They had since December 28 been quoting the maximum 3.30 dollars under the old parity. Analysts here said that the decision by the commercial banks to begin buying U.S. currency at the maximum rate indicates that the black market is still sucking up a significant portion of the scarce foreign currency, and that another upward revision of the parity is a possibility within a month or so.

ST LUCIA

CANADA'S FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON VISIT

FL060214 Bridgetown CANA in English 2359 GMT 5 Jan 84

[By Ernie Seon]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Jan 5 (CANA) -- Canada's Minister for External Relations Jean-Luc Pepin, who arrived here tonight at the start of a three nation Caribbean tour, said his country was anxious to consult leaders in the area on what role it can play in post-invasion Grenada.

Pepin made his remarks to newsmen at the airport where he was met by St Lucia Prime Minister John Compton and other government ministers and officials. He said Canada wanted to know what it could do, whether in the area of security or aid, in bringing Grenada back to normalcy following the U.S.-led invasion in October. Peopin is discussing the Grenada question with leaders and government officials here, in Barbados where he is scheduled to go on Sunday, and in Trinidad and Tobago. He will also discuss and review Canadian development assistance in an area where Ottawa has developed close ties. "Canada...has a very important aid programme in the region, amounting to some 60 million Canadian dollars annually, and we do have a number of ongoing projects the progress of which we will be observing," Pepin said.

Pepin and Compton will tommorrow sign an air services agreement concluded last September. Pepin said: "The agreement with St Lucia is just another indication of Canada's concern for the development of tourism and other areas of the St Lucia's economy." He said that under the air agreement the St Lucia Government has employed the Trinidad and Tobago national carrier BWIA to operate a direct service out of Toronto. He said that at any future date with the agreement St Lucia can operate the route using its own airline. The air service is to start later this month.

The Canadian minister said he will also take the opportunity to hold multilateral and bilateral talks on matters related to trade and political relations.

COMPTON TO VISIT SOUTH KOREA 9-12 JANUARY

FL051515 Bridgetown CANA in English 1410 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Seoul, Jan 5 (CANA-REUTER) -- Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia will visit South Korea from January 9 to 12 at the invitation of Prime Minister Chin Iee-Chong, the Foreign Ministry here said today. He will have talks with government leaders here on increased economic and other cooperation between his Caribbean island country and South Korea and observe industrial complexes, it added.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

DELEGATION TO ATTEND L.A. ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

FL051920 Bridgetown CANA in English 1646 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 5 (CANA) -- Trinidad and Tobago said today it will participate in the Latin American Economic Conference in Quito, Ecuador starting Monday.

The adoption of a joint economic plan of action by countries of the Caribbean and Latin America will be discussed at the conference from January 9-15. Leaders from six countries -- Colombia, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Argentina, and Ecuador -- have been invited to join economic affairs ministers and senior officials at the meeting which is being held against the background of a difficult year for the region. One of the sponsors, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), said in a just published report "the figures...leave no doubt that 1983 has been the worst year for the region as a whole in the last half century."

The Trinidad and Tobago delegation is led by Christopher Thomas, acting permanent secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and includes Annette Auguste, ambassador to Caracas, and A. Bartholomew, senior planning officer in the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

BRAZIL

PTB NATIONAL PRESIDENT IVETTE VARGAS DIES

PY041150 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Excerpt] PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] National President Ivette Vargas died at 1856 today [3 January] due to respiratory problems, lung infection, and an embolism. She had been hospitalized at the Syrian-Lebanese hospital in Sao Paulo since 16 December.

Since 19 December, her state of health had been considered serious, and her situation grew worse during the past 4 days. Despite apparent improvement this morning, the doctors concluded early this afternoon that nothing else could be done.

PDS-PTB Agreement To Continue

PY041152 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 4 Jan 84

[Text] In Brasilia, Presidential Spokesman Carlos Atila has stated that the agreement with the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] to maintain a majority in congress will not be interrupted by the death of Deputy Ivette Vargas.

GUYANA

SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES CUBAN OFFICIALS' VISIT

FL051543 Bridgetown CANA in English 1350 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 5, CANA -- A two-man team from the Cuban Foreign Ministry was due in Guyana today on a one-week visit for talks with government ministers and officials, a government spokesman said.

The team will be led by the director of the Latin American Division of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Nicolas Rodriguez, and includes the head of the Caribbean Department, Nelson Restane.

The two officials will hold talks with Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, Health Minister Dr Richard Van West Charles, and senior government officials.

The nature of the discussion was not disclosed.

Guyana and Cuba established diplomatic relations on December 8, 1972, and have been working towards strengthening economic, technical, and cultural cooperation through the setting up of a joint commission, which meets annually in the two capitals on a rotational basis.

PANAMA

PRESIDENT PRESENTS FUNDS FOR 1984 ELECTIONS

PA052336 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella has presented the Electoral Tribunal with the funds requested for the 1984 elections.

The National Treasury check for 6,031,368.01 balboas, payable to the Electoral Tribunal, was received by its president, Cesar Quintero, who was accompanied by tribunal members Rolando Murgas and Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez. With the delivery of these funds, the president has fulfilled his promise to grant the necessary financial resources to hold the 1984 elections.

MOLIRENA ON LACK OF OPPOSITION ALLIANCE

PA052200 Panama City YA in Spanish 5 Jan 84 p 2

[Communique released by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement in Panama City on 2 January]

[Text] The Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [MOLIRENA] announces to all citizens that the deadline for the Christian Democratic Party, the Authentic Panamenist Party, the Authentic Liberal Party [Partido Liberal Autentico], and MOLIRENA to reach agreement on forming an electoral alliance has expired without any such agreement having been reached.

Nonetheless, MOLIRENA warns that the need for presenting voters with a list of candidates -- especially for the presidency and vice presidency of the Republic -- who can guarantee a solution to the profound crisis currently affecting the Panamanian people is increasingly evident. This should be understood by the opposition forces who are truly intent on giving the country the change it demands, without placing personal or partisan interests first. This is why MOLIRENA reiterates its willingness to continue trying to achieve unity among the democratic forces to guarantee a clear, definitive, and resounding victory over officialism in the next elections.

SURINAME

BAUXITE MINERS REFUSE TO RETURN TO WORK

FL051220 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 5 Jan 84

[Text] Reports from Parimaribo, Suriname, say bauxite miners refused to return to work yesterday. Reportedly, the miners ignored pleas from union leaders that they return to work and ignored warnings from the government that the bauxite mine that produces much of Suriname's foreign exchange may close if the strike lingers.

Army Commander Daysi Bouterse met with the workers over the weekend in an attempt to end the 2-week-old strike, and he hinted that stiff new income taxes might be delayed. But miners have refused to go back to work until they receive guarantees from the government.